ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for optimizing lun masking of a storage appliance is provided. Upon login, an initiator data structure containing a lun map is created and associated with each initiator connected to the storage system. When an initiator sends a message directed to a lun associated with the storage system, the storage system maps the lun sent by the initiator to a physical lun associated with the storage system using the lun map. If the lun map contains an appropriate entry, then the lun has been successfly exported and/or masked to the given initiator.